

IEPA Log No.: **C-0600-15**  
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2015-965**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **February 1, 2016**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **February 22, 2016**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
Amendments of 1972

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State**

**Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Water  
Permit Section  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
Post Office Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
217/782-3362

**Name and Address of Discharger:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District – Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

**Discharge Location:** Near in of Township , Range of the P.M. in All Illinois Counties County.

**Name of Receiving Water:** Waters of the State

**Project Description:** Proposed re-issuance of Regional Permit 26 for the emergency reconstruction and repair activities for flood damaged areas.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Darren Gove at 217/782-3362.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (USACE) has proposed re-issuance of Regional General Permit 26 that will authorize work in waters of the United States, including rivers, lakes, streams, and wetland areas, associated with emergency reconstruction and repair activities in counties declared flood disaster areas by the State of Illinois.

This regional permit will authorize the following emergency protection and repair measures that are not exempted or already authorized by Nationwide, Regional, or Individual permits:

- a. Repair of levees to existing elevations and cross-section, including breach closures and borrow operations.
- b. Bridge embankment protection (armoring) or repair.
- c. Repair of pre-existing highway or railroad embankments and the addition or repair of stone (armoring) protection.
- d. Repair of pre-existing utility protection structures.
- e. Placement of rock and/or earth materials for stream/ditch bank protection and/or stream/ditch bank restoration.
- f. Drainage ditch restoration to pre-flood capacity and flow line unless the flow line must be altered due to other damage associated with the flood event.
- g. Restoration of creek channels to pre-flooding alignment and capacity.
- h. Construction of temporary haul roads to facilitate the completion of any of the listed activities.

Special conditions have also been proposed in this regional permit that: limit the restoration of the project to pre-flood conditions; require clean, uncontaminated materials for fill; require appropriate guidelines for the use of temporary levees, accesses and fills; require that all dredged or excavated materials be placed on upland, non-wetland sites; require work to be conducted in a manner to minimize increases in suspended solids and turbidity; require appropriate guidelines for the use and storage of petroleum products; regulate the design and construction of stream channels to minimize erosion and property damage; restrict tree clearing between April 1 through September 30 for protection of endangered bats; prohibit the use of various plant species for vegetative cover; specify the type and size of rock to be utilized; require consultation with Illinois Department of Natural Resources and require acquisition of applicable federal, state, and local permits; and specify wetland mitigation design objectives and performance measures, among others.

### **Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body**

The Regional General Permit No. 26 may be applied to those water bodies within the boundaries of the Corps of Engineer Rock Island District. These water bodies are General Use waters within the State of Illinois.

### **Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses**

Activities that would be authorized under the proposed permit may result in short-term, minor impacts to the waterbody. They are unlikely to result in a change in the existing uses of a water body.

### **Purpose and Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Activity**

Projects authorized under the proposed permit will reconstruct and/or repair areas affected by floods in counties declared flood disaster areas by the State of Illinois.

### **Assessment of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environment Degradation**

The assessment of the activities allowed under this permit finds that the general and special conditions and limitations as defined by the proposed permit would assure that the projects would be completed in a manner that minimizes environmental degradation.

### **Agency Conclusion**

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time the assessment was written. We tentatively find that the Regional Permit 26 proposed for general 401 Water Quality Certification, with applicable special conditions, would have minimal individual and cumulative impacts on the aquatic resources within the State of Illinois. These activities are therefore compliant with the Antidegradation standard and no further evaluation under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (Antidegradation standard) will be required. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.